

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 09907 161648Z

15

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W
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R 161541Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6845
INFO USIA WASHDC

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SECSTATE FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, GR
SUBJECT: AMERICAN EXHIBIT AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ATHENS

REF: ATHENS 0713; ATHENS 1692; ATHENS 1947

1. DURING RECENT OFFICIAL CALL BY CAO BALL ON NATIONAL GALLERY DIRECTOR PAPASTAMOS, LATTER REITERATED STRONG INTEREST IN PRESENTING MAJOR CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ART EXHIBIT AT HIS GALLERY ON AN EXCHANGE BASIS. IN RETURN HE PROPOSED TO ASSEMBLE WORKS BY DISTINGUISHED GREEK PAINTERS OF THE LAST TWO DECADES FOR SHOWING IN THE U.S. PAPASTAMOS WAS PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT OBTAINING SPECIFICALLY THE AMERICAN PAINTING 1900-1976 SHOW BY JOHN H. BAUR EXHIBITED THIS YEAR AT KATONAH GALLERY (28 BEDFORD ROAD, KATONAH, N.Y.).

2. POST BELIEVES THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SATISFY THE REPEATED REQUESTS OF THIS PRESTIGIOUS STATE-OWNED GALLERY FOR A MAJOR AMERICAN EXHIBIT. APART FROM THE FACT THAT FRANCE, ENGLAND, AS WELL AS SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY HELD IMPRESSIVE SHOWS, A PROJECT SUCH AS THE ONE DESCRIBED IN PARA 1 WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND RENEW CONFIDENCE IN THE EXCELLENCE AND CHALLENGE OF AMERICAN ART.

3. POST THEREFORE URGES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL GALLERY PROPOSAL AND WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF
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DEPARTMENT VIEWS.

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Message Attributes

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